

For more information about Atlantic sharks,
please contact:

www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hmspg.html

or

Margo Schulze-Haugen HMS Management
Karyl Brewster-Geisz Division
Silver Spring, MD St. Petersburg, FL
(301) 713-2347 (727) 570-5447

If your marina or fishing club would like to
receive regular shark postings from our HMS
FAX network, please contact Karyl Brewster-
Geisz at (301) 713-2347. Alternatively,
information about *all* Federal fisheries, including
the shark fishery, can be obtained electronically
via FISHNEWS. Please see www.nmfs.noaa.gov
to sign up for this service.

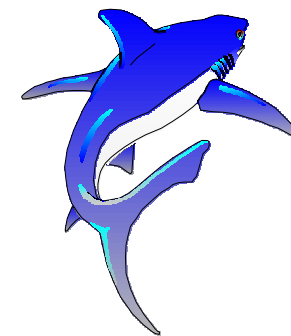
Important Phone Numbers

NMFS Enforcement Hotline 800-853-1964
Coast Guard Hotline 800-SAVE-FISH
NMFS Southeast Permit Office 727-570-5326
NMFS Northeast Infoline 978-281-9278
HMS Infoline 800-894-5528
NMFS tuna information 978-281-9260
Atlantic tunas or HMS charter/
headboat permits 888-872-8862
www.nmfspermits.com

*This pamphlet was prepared in September
2001 to provide interested fishermen a
summary of the recreational shark
regulations under the Fishery Management
Plan for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, and
sharks. Complete regulations may be found
at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hmspg.html.
Fishery rules are subject to change;
fishermen must familiarize themselves with
the latest regulations and are responsible
for complying with all current regulations.*

National Marine Fisheries Service
Highly Migratory Species Management Division
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Atlantic Shark Recreational Fishery Regulations



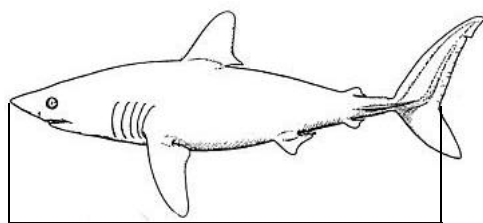
September 2001

National Marine Fisheries Service
Office of Sustainable Fisheries
Highly Migratory Species (HMS)
Management Division



Bag Limit and Minimum Size

ONE shark (any species that may be kept) per vessel per trip with a minimum size of 54" or 4.5 feet fork length; plus
ONE Atlantic sharpnose shark per person per trip (no minimum size).



Fork length

Authorized Gears

Rod and reel, handline, bandit gear.

No Sale Provision

Recreational fishermen (those fishermen who do not have a commercial shark permit) are not permitted to sell, barter, or trade Atlantic shark or shark pieces.

Landing Restrictions

Harvested sharks must have fins, head, and tail attached through landing. Sharks may be bled and gutted if the tail is still attached. This regulation will aid species-specific identification of landed sharks dockside.

Release Information

If you catch a prohibited species or an undersized shark, you must release that fish to the sea immediately with a minimum of injury and without removing the fish from the water. If you are not sure of the species and whether you may keep it, release it.

Species That May Be Kept

Large Coastal Sharks

Sandbar	Lemon
Blacktip	Bull
Spinner	Great hammerhead
Tiger	Smooth hammerhead
Silky	Scalloped hammerhead
Nurse	

Small Coastal Sharks

Atlantic sharpnose	Blacknose
Finetooth	Bonnethead

Pelagic Sharks

Shortfin mako	Oceanic whitetip
Common thresher	Blue
Porbeagle	

Species That MUST Be Released*

White	Narrowtooth
Dusky	Caribbean sharpnose
Sand tiger	Smalltail
Bigeye sand tiger	Atlantic angel
Whale	Longfin mako
Basking	Bigeye thresher
Bignose	Sevengill
Galapagos	Sixgill
Night	Bigeye sixgill
Caribbean reef	

*Sharks must be released immediately with a minimum of injury without removing them from the water.

Tagging Information

To obtain shark tags and information on the Cooperative Shark Tagging Program, write:

Apex Predators Program

NOAA / National Marine Fisheries Service

28 Tarzwell Drive

Narragansett, RI 02882-1199

or visit www.nefscsharks.nmfs.gov

Tournament Registration

The tournament operator responsible for maintaining records of participants and results used for awarding tournament points or prizes for Atlantic HMS, including sharks, must register the tournament with NMFS at least four weeks prior to commencement of the tournament. Call HMS Management Division at (727) 570-5447 or visit the website www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hmspg.html to receive a registration form.

NMFS will select certain tournaments for reporting. If your tournament is selected, NMFS will send you a reporting form that must be returned to NMFS within 7 days after tournament fishing has been completed.

Charter/Headboat Permits

If you own or operate a charter/headboat vessel that fishes for Atlantic HMS, including sharks, you must have an Atlantic HMS Charter/ Headboat permit. The permit can be purchased online at www.nmfspermits.com or by calling 888-872-8862. The 2001 Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat permit costs \$27.00 and will be valid from the date of issuance through May 31, 2002. NMFS will select a percentage of permitted charter/headboats to complete a logbook for each trip. To volunteer to carry an observer to monitor catch and release rates and condition of released fish, please call the HMS Management Division at (301) 713-2347.

Large Pelagic Survey (LPS)

NMFS collects data on recreational fishing effort through the LPS. The LPS consists of randomly selected weekly telephone and dockside intercept interviews. This information is necessary for accurate stock assessments. Please support and cooperate with this effort. For more information about the LPS, please call the HMS Management Division at (301) 713-2347.

Coming Soon

Large Coastal Shark Stock Assessment - 2002

Small Coastal Shark Stock Assessment - 2002

International Pelagic Shark Stock Assessment - 2003

Shark regulations may change based on the results of

the stock assessments.